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the least undervalue the difficulties of courageous action in such matters. It is so much pleasanter to swim with the stream than against it, so much pleasanter to be in the majority than the minority. As loyal, devoted, patriotic Americans, we owe it to the memory of our fathers and to the free institutions they bequeathed us, not to fail to discharge our duties in these respects. We ought on every proper occasion, individually, if necessary, to serve notice on President and Congress alike that we will not longer submit in silence to an entire perversion of the principles for which the Revolution took place and of the aims and purposes for which our government was founded. For a hundred and twenty years the Republic prospered beyond any poet's dream. It was then a "world power" in the true sense, because it represented to all nations the strength and glory of liberty and peace.

Surely even the most militant person cannot doubt that our present army and navy are more than ample for our defense, as no country in the world is in the least danger of provoking a war with us. It is therefore not unreasonable to ask that the preparations for wars which can never happen, except by our own fault, should cease, and that we should devote ourselves again to our true mission, that of commending by our example free institutions to other nations; and if we have any surplus treasure let us expend it in lightening the expenses and the burdens of those whose days are given to toil and into whose lives enters far too little of brightness and joy.

Above all, we must demand that every controversy in which our country becomes involved must be peaceably settled either by agreement with our adversary or by some form of honorable and impartial arbitration. Even if the controversy is with one of the great powers, though great powers now very seldom go to war with each other, we must insist upon this course; but if the controversy is with a small country incapable of asserting its rights in arms against us,—and it is chiefly against such that great nations now wage war,—it is far more necessary for our honor and our dignity not to use our superior strength to refuse our adversary an appeal to a disinterested tribunal, for such a refusal would be a confession of wrong done to a country incapable of punishing us for committing it, than which nothing could be baser.

One of the consolations of the closing years of life is a sense of fellowship not so much with the spirit of the age as with the spirit of the ages; and in that fellowship we may cherish an unshaken faith that in spite of all abatements

"The world out of night
Rolls into light."

It may move slowly, but it does move, and in the right direction, for we are learning nobler standards of life, more elevating conceptions of heroism, and more inspiring ideals of civic duty; while we are also learning that the only true patriotism is rooted in reverence for the moral law. To assist, in however slight a degree, in such an advance is a service which brings with it its own abundant compensations, and we ask none other.

Spain and Portugal have followed the example set by the other European countries and signed a treaty of obligatory arbitration, along the lines of the Anglo-French treaty.

Seventy-Sixth Annual Report of the Directors of the American Peace Society.

Mr. President and Members of the American Peace Society:

The Report which we herewith respectfully submit closes the seventy-sixth year of the work of the American Peace Society. Though darkened by the cloud of war in the Far East, the year has been on the whole one of unexampled interest in the cause of international peace and of remarkable progress in the development and organization of the principle of arbitration among the nations.

DIRECTORS' MEETINGS.

At our Board Meetings, which have been held as usual every two months, the regular lines of our work have been carefully considered, and the important questions of the day related to our movement have been discussed, and we have endeavored to act in relation to them in such a way as most effectively to promote the principles for which the Society stands.

PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS.

THE ADVOCATE OF PEACE and the ANGEL OF PEACE, our monthly publications, have been continued, and their circulation considerably increased over last year. The monthly edition of the ADVOCATE is now five hundred copies larger than at this time in May last. Effort has been made to keep the paper up to a high standard and to make it a live, up-to-date, efficient organ of the great cause of international justice and amity which is now winning its way so rapidly in public favor. The paper has been sent as heretofore gratuitously to college and university reading rooms, theological schools, city libraries, Y. M. C. A. rooms, etc. Generous contributions for this purpose have been received from a number of interested individuals. Besides this, many copies have been subscribed for by members and friends of the Society and sent to those whose interest it was desired to secure. In no recent year has the ADVOCATE been more thoroughly appreciated and more widely quoted in other journals. We have reason to believe that the service which it is rendering in the development of right public opinion is continually increasing. The members of the Society everywhere are urged to do whatever they can to promote its wider circulation.

GENERAL LITERATURE.

The demand for books and pamphlet literature treating of various aspects of the questions of peace and war has been steady throughout the year. The works most called for are Sumner's and Channing's "Discourses on War," Bloch's "Future of War," the Baroness von Suttner's "Lay Down Your Arms," Trueblood's "Federation of the World," and pamphlets and leaflets treating of the growth of arbitration and of the cost and waste of war. Literature has been supplied from our office for a number of debates in colleges, for orations at oratorical contests and college commencements, and for sermons on peace and arbitration. The interest in the subject taken by an increasing number of young men and women in the colleges and universities is one of the most encouraging omens of the time.

PUBLIC WORK.

The public work of the Board through the President, Secretary and others, has been similar to that of previous years. Secretary Trueblood has been invited more frequently than ever before to address prominent associations, clubs, church assemblies, in Boston, New York, Hartford, Philadelphia, Chicago, Indianapolis, and other smaller cities. In all these places interest has been stronger and more general than has probably ever before been shown. The actual attainments of arbitration and the recent rapid growth of the movement have greatly impressed those who have been made acquainted with its remarkable history. Effective work has also been done through public addresses by the President and other members of the Board and of the Society in different parts of the country. We have also been represented in the Peace Congress, the International Law Conference, the National Arbitration Conference at Washington and the Mohonk Conference, the details of which are given below.

THE STATED INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.

The project of a regular International Advisory Congress, on which we made report last year, has continued to engage our close attention. The subject has awakened wide and deep interest. The resolution of the Massachusetts Legislature asking Congress to authorize the President to invite the governments of the world to join in creating such a congress was presented to the Senate and House of Representatives on the 11th of November last, and referred to the Committees on Foreign Relations. On the 14th of January, immediately after the Washington Arbitration Conference, a hearing on the subject was given by the House Committee. A deputation consisting of members of our Board and others appeared before the Committee in support of the Massachusetts resolution. The deputation was received with the greatest courtesy by Chairman Hitt and the members of the Committee, the whole hour of the regular weekly meeting was given to the consideration of the subject, many questions were asked by committeemen and the whole Committee manifested much interest. Later the subject was referred by the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to a sub-committee consisting of Senators Frye, Fairbanks and Morgan, who now have the resolution under consideration. Recently a strong memorial from Pennsylvania in support of the Massachusetts proposal was presented to Congress. It was cordially endorsed by the governor of Pennsylvania and signed by all the justices of the Supreme Court of the State, by the justices of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, by distinguished clergymen, attorneys and business men. Here the matter rests at present, Congress having adjourned without the Committees making any report upon the resolution. From the interest manifested we are not without hope that when Congress reassembles next winter the proposal may be taken up and favorably acted upon before the present Congress ends. Whether this should be the case or not, we feel justified in holding that the establishment of such a congress, now that the International Court of Arbitration is in successful operation, is the next great step forward in the organization and realization of universal and permanent peace throughout the world.

PROPAGANDA AT THE ST. LOUIS EXPOSITION.

It did not seem to us practicable to attempt to have an elaborate peace exhibit at the St. Louis Exposition, either alone or with other societies. After investigating the subject carefully, through a committee composed of Lucia Ames Mead, Dr. Homer B. Sprague, and Rev. George W. Stearns, we decided to take a unit of space in the Department of Social Economy. We have furnished this with a case about three and a half feet high, by thirty inches wide, by eighteen inches deep, having shelves for literature and sixteen movable leaves on the top holding two cards each, about thirty by twenty-four inches in size. On these cards have been placed in large letters brief statements of the cost and waste of war, the attainments of arbitration, the founding and work of the Hague Court, a few photographs and other pictures, etc. This has been installed and will be under the care of the attendant in charge of the section. We hope it may do much to awaken interest in the work of the Society and to remove from some minds at least the ignorance which prevails so widely as to the progress and purposes of the international arbitration and peace movement.

THE PEACE CONGRESS AT ROUEN.

The congresses and conferences held the past year in support of the international peace movement have all been of extraordinary moment. The Peace Congress at Rouen, in September last, was attended by more than five hundred delegates and adherents. Six of these were from our own Society. The meeting, while full of interest and enthusiasm, was of an eminently practical character. The discussions were remarkably able and dealt frankly with the great questions of immediate concern in the relations of the nations. Resolutions were voted urging the more general use of the Hague Court, the calling of a conference to deal specifically with the subject of disarmament, protesting against the various acts of injustice done by the great powers to smaller peoples, etc. A noteworthy feature of the Congress was its full recognition and support not only by the local authorities of Rouen and the Department of the Lower Seine, but also by the French government itself. President Loubet gladly permitted the use of his name as an honorary president, and the Minister of Commerce made a notable speech at one of the great public meetings. The Congress was an impressive revelation of the deep and widespread interest which the international peace movement has aroused in the entire French nation.

THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE AT VIENNA.

Quite as noteworthy as the Rouen meeting was the conference of the Interparliamentary Union at Vienna a fortnight earlier. About six hundred delegates were present, representing the groups of the Union in the different national parliaments. They were received by the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs, who in an admirable address expressed the entire accord of his government with the purpose of the organization. The Conference went somewhat outside of its usual program — the development and organization of arbitration — and, like the Congress at Rouen, voted a resolution urging the speedy calling of an international conference to deal with the pressing question of disarmament.

CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW ASSOCIATION.

The third of the great international meetings of the year for the promotion of better relations between the nations was the Conference of the International Law Association at Antwerp, the last of September and the first of October. About one hundred members of the Association were present. The meetings were presided over by Mr. Auguste Beernaert, Belgian Minister of State, one of the most eminent statesmen of continental Europe. The Conference had on its program a number of important questions of international law, some of them very technical and intricate. But to no subject did it give more careful consideration than to arbitration, which, from the time of its organization over thirty years ago, it has made a prominent feature of its work. The debate on this subject, introduced in an able paper by Dr. W. Evans Darby, was a spirited one and brought out nearly all the important aspects of the subject. Our Secretary read at this Conference a paper on the proposed regular international congress, in which he developed more fully than had before been done the grounds of the project and the nature and scope of the proposed congress. The paper was received with much appreciation, and, though no action was taken upon it, the proposition met with the hearty approval of many of the members of the Conference.

THE MOHONK ARBITRATION CONFERENCE.

Of the conferences not international held during the year for the promotion of the pacific solution of international differences, the foremost place must be given to that of Mohonk Lake. Though entirely under the control of Mr. Smiley, this conference has now become essentially a permanent organization, with a secretary giving his whole time to the promotion of its objects. The last Mohonk meeting, May 27 to 29 of last year, which was presided over by Hon. John W. Foster, brought together two hundred and fifty prominent people from different sections of the country, a considerably larger number than at any previous time. The work of the Conference was also noticed more widely and prominently in the public press than in previous years. A number of great business organizations have during the past two years been brought, largely by the influence of Mohonk, into permanent and hearty support of international arbitration. We are glad to bear our testimony to the wide influence of the Mohonk Conference on the nation and the world. Several members of our Board and of the Society participated in the Mohonk meeting last May, and have been invited to take part in the coming one which is to open on the first day of June.

THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL ARBITRATION CONFERENCE.

On the 12th of January last, a Conference in the interest of arbitration, and especially of an arbitration treaty with Great Britain, was held in Washington, and brought together the most distinguished body of men — statesmen, diplomats, jurists, clergymen, educators, men of affairs — that ever met on American soil for a like purpose. The Conference was organized, under the lead of Hon. John W. Foster, by the National Arbitration Committee appointed by a similar Conference held at Washington in 1896. The Resolutions, submitted by a Committee of which Judge George Gray was chairman, and unanimously approved by the Conference, urged our

government to negotiate at once a treaty with Great Britain and other powers ready to act, providing for the submission to the Hague Court of all controversies not capable of solution by ordinary diplomatic agencies. The Resolutions of the Conference were communicated by committees to the President and Secretary of State and also to the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs. We regret to have to say that though the President and the Secretary of State expressed the heartiest approval of the wish of the Conference, the Senate as a part of the treaty-making power has not up to the present time shown any disposition to move in the matter.

NATIONAL PEACE CONGRESSES.

A recent phase of the peace movement, the institution of annual national peace congresses as subsidiary to the International Congress, seems likely to assume in some countries considerable importance. The French peace societies, with which originated the idea of holding such meetings regularly, have already held two national congresses. The recent one, held at Nimes, April 7 to 9, was attended by four hundred delegates who came from all parts of France. The English Peace Societies have taken the matter up and have decided to hold a National Congress at Manchester on the 22d and 23d of next month. These yearly congresses may well prove a powerful instrument of good in small compact countries. Whether they are desirable or could be made successful in a country so vast as ours is at the present time problematical.

THE WORK OF THE PEACE SOCIETIES.

It is needless to more than call attention to the extended work of the peace societies in the different countries, now numbering, with their branches, about four hundred and fifty. A detailed account of their labors would be impossible in a report like this. Some of them have grown in numbers and strength and have as heretofore carried on an extended and vigorous campaign of public education. Others are still weak and struggling against the indifference and prejudices of their environment. But all of them are lights in their communities, and everywhere they are commanding increased respect and compelling a wider acceptance of the principles which they advocate. Besides the work done by them through their special organs, now more than twenty in number, the general press is nearly everywhere open to them, and in many places the great journals are active supporters of the cause. It is most encouraging to be able to report the fact that for the cause espoused by these societies the days of general neglect and disregard are over and the days of triumph are beginning.

THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU AT BERNE.

The International Peace Bureau, through its able and indefatigable Secretary, Mr. Ducommun, and its semi-monthly *Correspondance*, has continued to render most valuable service as an organ of communication between the societies and workers in the different countries, and of conveying to the governments of the world the recommendations of the peace congresses. Before the outbreak of hostilities in the East, the Bureau made an earnest effort to secure joint mediation of the powers as provided for in the Hague Convention, and after the war had begun continued its efforts in the same direction.

THE PEACE DEPARTMENTS OF THE W. C. T. U. AND THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

The Peace Department of the W. C. T. U., under the superintendence of Mrs. Hannah J. Bailey, and the Committee on Arbitration and Peace of the National Council of Women, directed by Mrs. May Wright Sewall, continue to be efficient agencies in the development of rational ideals of international life. It is impossible to overestimate the beneficent future effect of the steady educational work of the one among women and children, and the annual demonstration of women throughout the world in behalf of arbitration and peace organized by the other. Many women's societies and clubs in other countries coöperate with these great American organizations of women, or carry on independent peace work of their own. There is no stronger ground for believing that the ideals of the friends of peace are soon to prevail than the fact that they are now supported by so large a number of the women of civilized lands.

THE ARBITRATION GROUP IN CONGRESS.

The Interparliamentary Union, though organized fifteen years ago and having grown in the meantime to be a powerful association of more than a thousand members of European parliaments, has heretofore had little following in the United States. We are happy to report that on the 13th of January last, on the initiative of Hon. Richard Bartholdt, Member of Congress from Missouri, a group of the Union was formed in our national Congress with about forty members. This group has extended an official invitation to the Union to hold its Conference this year at St. Louis. The Conference is to meet in the Congress Building of the Exposition the first week in September. The United States Congress has appropriated fifty thousand dollars for the entertainment of the foreign delegates. The gathering of these statesmen from many countries promises to be an imposing demonstration in behalf of the world's friendship and peace.

PEACE DAYS.

The third Sunday of December, the 22d of February, and the 18th of May, the three days of the year given by the peace organizations to anniversary meetings and to demonstrations on behalf of arbitration and peace, were all observed the past year to about the same extent and in the same way as heretofore.

MYSTIC PEACE CONVENTION.

The annual Peace Convention which convenes in the Peace Grove at Mystic, Conn., under the auspices of the Universal Peace Union of Philadelphia and some of its affiliated societies, was held as usual for four days in August last. It brought together large numbers of people from the surrounding country, and the program included speakers from a number of cities, representing the subject of peace from many different points of view. Strong resolutions were adopted in support of the principles advocated by the Union.

THE BLOCH MUSEUM AT LUCERNE.

The committee having charge of the Peace and War Museum at Lucerne, Switzerland, founded by the late John de Bloch, have recently published their first annual report. The committee have expended during the year

about four thousand dollars, for the increase of articles in the Museum, for publications in furtherance of the studies inaugurated by Mr. Bloch, and as subventions to a few groups of peace societies. The Museum was visited by fifty-nine thousand people during the season of 1903. The exhibits illustrative of war past and present are unfortunately much larger than those devoted to peace, and it is to be hoped that the latter may be speedily made more complete in order to make the establishment really carry out the will of the founder.

THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE.

The Nobel Peace Prize for 1903 was awarded to William Randal Cremer, M. P., whose distinguished services in the cause of international arbitration have extended over a period of thirty years. During that time he has been secretary of the International Arbitration League, founded by himself, has labored assiduously in the British Parliament, has visited this country three different times in the interests of an Anglo-American Arbitration Treaty, and has been one of the leaders in the movement which recently resulted in the conclusion of the Anglo-French Treaty. It was on his initiative that the Interparliamentary Union was founded in 1889. Mr. Cremer has shown his unselfish devotion to the advancement of the cause by turning over this prize to the International Arbitration League to be used as a permanent fund for the further development of the arbitration cause.

THE WORK OF THE HAGUE COURT.

The Hague Court has during the year disposed of the Venezuela Preferential Case, which had just been submitted to it at the time of our report last year. The Japanese House Tax Case, referred to it still earlier, has just been taken up. The written arguments have been delivered to the three arbitrators, and the counter cases will be presented in the course of a few months. The Venezuela case will for two reasons always be famous in the history of the Court. The question which led to its submission had already brought on violence, from the hands of which it was taken through the demand of the public opinion of the civilized world and turned over to the peaceful jurisdiction of the international tribunal,—a proceeding before unknown in history. Furthermore, in this case eleven nations, five of them great powers and six smaller ones, appeared as parties before the Court on equal terms. International justice, right and equality have never before had such a signal consecration by the nations of the world. The decision of the judges has created a good deal of disappointment. Their award seems on the face of it to support the policy of violence in the collection of claims. The judges seem, however, to have decided in the only way possible under the circumstances. Venezuela, through Mr. Bowen, had promised the blockading powers that if they would lift the blockade, thirty per cent. of the customs revenues of the ports of La Guayra and Puerto Cabello would be set apart for the payment of their claims. The pacific creditor nations had not yet appeared in the negotiations. The decision, it seems to us, will give no encouragement to powerful nations to proceed rashly to collect their claims by violence. It must, on the other hand, impress upon all the nations the responsibility of sacredly observing their promises and contracts. There seems little

doubt, since the settlement of this case, that the Hague Court is now finally accepted by the nations in general as the proper tribunal to which to carry all questions of a judicial order.

ARBITRATIONS OUTSIDE OF THE HAGUE COURT.

Besides these cases dealt with by the Hague Court, a number of differences have been during the year referred to special arbitrators or arbitral commissions. The most important of these are :

The boundary dispute between Ecuador and Peru.

The claims for indemnity of French citizens on the Treaty Shore of Newfoundland.

The question of the boundary line at the entrance of the Christiania Fiord, between Sweden and Norway.

The land question in the New Hebrides, between France and England.

The Barotzeland frontier question, between Great Britain and Portugal.

The controversy between the Turkish government and the Administration of the Ottoman debt.

Within the year several cases referred to special arbitrators or commissions have been decided. These are :

The ten cases of claims against Venezuela, most of which have been completed.

The interpretation of Article 10 of the Commercial Treaty of 1874, between Italy and Peru.

The Tientsin Railway Siding dispute, between Russia and Great Britain.

The Alaska Boundary dispute.

The settlement of this last long-standing dispute between the two English-speaking nations is a great triumph of the principle of pacific adjustment. The immediate displeasure produced in Canada by the award seems largely to have subsided, and the ultimate effect of the settlement is certain to be, not the disturbance of friendly relations between Canada and our country, but the strengthening of the bonds of friendship between them. This will surely be the result if our government provides—as we believe duty requires—for the easy commercial access of that portion of Canada to the Pacific Ocean.

Besides the above, a number of cases of difference referred in previous years to arbitration remain as yet undecided. The majority of these have grown out of the colonial relations of the powers or the commercial enterprises of foreign residents.

SPECIAL TREATIES OF OBLIGATORY ARBITRATION.

The most encouraging phase of the arbitration movement the past year has been the conclusion of seven special treaties of obligatory arbitration; namely, between England and France, France and Italy, England and Italy, Holland and Denmark, England and Spain, France and Spain, France and Holland. These have all been signed within the last eight months. The story of the conclusion of the first of these treaties, that between England and France, signed on the 14th of October last, of the interest and action of the great commercial and industrial bodies of the two countries, of the

support given by the Departmental Councils of France, of the mutual visits and banquets of large delegations from the Chamber of Deputies and the House of Commons, reads almost like romance. These treaties are to remain in force for five years. Six of them provide for the reference to the Hague Court of all questions of a judicial order and those arising in the interpretation of treaties, questions of vital interest and of honor being reserved. The Holland-Denmark Treaty is without limitations. Negotiations are known to be in progress for other similar treaties between the powers of western Europe, and propositions have already been made by several of these powers to our own government for like treaties. We greatly regret that our country has not led in this matter. What the United States has done for arbitration during the past century made it our rightful prerogative to be in the forefront here also. But we are falling behind, and our laurels others are taking. The fault does not lie with the people. The President and the Secretary of State are ready to act. But the Senate of the United States, from all that can be learned, is either opposed to the conclusion of such treaties, or is as a body indifferent to the whole subject.

THE PAN-AMERICAN TREATIES.

Little progress has as yet been made in the ratification of the arbitration protocols signed at the Pan-American Conference more than two years ago in Mexico City. The treaty for the submission of all questions of claims to the Hague Court was favorably reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs just before the recent adjournment of Congress. We are not aware that action has been taken upon these treaties by any of the republics south of us, beyond that of Guatemala, reported last year.

ARMAMENTS.

The serious and increasingly pressing problem of checking the growth of the armaments of the world and of their reduction from the present ruinous and perilous proportions remains as yet practically untouched. What Chile and the Argentine Republic have done is in the highest degree honorable and constitutes an example which ought immediately to be followed by other powers. But the great armaments still remain. They continue to consume the resources and to degrade the physical character of the peoples. They make many needed constructive enterprises for the general welfare impossible. Their provocation to jealousy, to suspicion, and to conflict, grows with their growth, and can never be removed till they are themselves abolished. It is widely felt throughout European countries that the time is near when the problem of their reduction must be seriously taken in hand. A conference to deal specifically with them has been recommended by both the Peace Congress and the Interparliamentary Conference, and is urged by many public men. Such a conference ought to be called at the earliest practicable moment, and no nation could render a larger service to humanity or do itself at the same time greater honor than by taking the initiative in securing the early meeting of such an international gathering.

We regret to have to chronicle the discouraging fact that in the matter of naval increase our own government is setting a very bad and dangerous example. The esti-

mates for the navy the coming year amount to nearly one hundred million dollars. In eighteen years the naval budget has increased seven hundred per cent. The population of the country has during the same time increased but fifty per cent., and its wealth only one hundred per cent. We are at the present moment building more war vessels than any other country except Great Britain. We are warned by the President of the Senate that we must be prepared soon to spend two hundred millions a year on the navy. There is little doubt that unless the present policy can be reversed we shall in a few years be spending much more than two hundred millions a year. Is not this unparalleled folly in a nation geographically situated as ours, whose constitutive principles and institutions commend a policy of international justice and goodwill and an armament of only police proportions on land and sea? The reasons given for this vast increase of the navy appear to us to be quite groundless. The policy seems to be the fruit either of ignorant and unworthy fear or, still worse, of a purpose to take an ambitious and unlawful hand in the affairs of the world, in contravention of all the high behests of our mission as a great peace-making power among the nations. The people of the country, who are sovereign and responsible for all the national policies, cannot too soon awake to the perils into which they are being led by the specious and delusive plea for a great fleet of war vessels as a necessary instrument of civilization and of peace.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

The calamity of war in the Far East, which has been for some years impending, has at last fallen. For four months Japan and Russia have been expending all their wits, energies and resources toward mutual slaughter and destruction. No sadder spectacle could well be conceived in our present civilization, marked by such great advance in knowledge, so many tender benevolences, so many large and encouraging movements for the betterment of humanity, than that of these two great nations descending into the arena of brutal passion and violence, to rend, to mar and to destroy. The only compensation is the general regret of the civilized world — a regret deeper and wider than was ever before known in connection with any war — and the widespread feeling that the conflict ought never to have been.

It is not for us to sit in judgment or to distribute the blame between the contestants. The case was in its nature not one that could be submitted to arbitration. It grew out of political ambitions and animosities, the only cure of which is a higher development in righteousness, justice and goodwill. But it came well within the scope of mediation as provided by the Hague Convention to which both the nations were parties. Mediation was suggested from more than one source and rejected, — foolishly, dishonorably rejected.

It is useless now to try to draw the lessons of the war. They will be numerous enough if the struggle continues long, and terrible enough, to make all the world unwilling, one may hope, to see another such conflict. The first of all duties at the moment is to try to bring the struggle as speedily as possible to an end. All Christendom is interested and ought to make its voice heard. The war is affecting injuriously all the better interests of the world, and no step which this or any similar organization, or

any individual, can in reason take towards putting an end to it, should be omitted.

THE OUTLOOK.

From the details given above it will be seen that during the year the constructive work of organizing peace among the nations has made wonderful advance. This justifies the friends of peace in cherishing large hope for the final and complete triumph of their cause at no very remote day. The Eastern conflict makes clear, of course, that there is a large and difficult task to be performed in the education of the public conscience of the world before the complete disappearance of war can be expected. But what has been accomplished both in the transformation of opinion and in the creation of a pacific system of settling disputes makes the task a hopeful and inspiring one. We ought all to be stirred thereby to the most strenuous efforts to extend and complete for the whole civilized world as speedily as possible the pacific institutions which are ultimately to displace war and establish universal and permanent peace.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE COMING PEACE CONGRESS.

As is already known to you all, the Peace Congress at Rouen last autumn accepted the invitation extended by our delegates and others from America to hold the Congress this year in this country. At a meeting of representatives of the various societies in this country held at Washington on the 13th of January, an Executive Committee of twelve was appointed to have general charge of the arrangements for the Congress. This Committee, of which Edwin D. Mead is chairman and Benjamin F. Trueblood secretary, has decided, in coöperation with the International Peace Bureau, that the Congress shall be held in Boston the first week in October. A General American Committee of the Congress, consisting of about sixty eminent men and women, has been created to promote the success of the Congress. A European section of this Committee will be shortly created. Great interest in the Congress has manifested itself both in this country and in Europe. Considerable delegations from the Societies in all the European countries are expected. The Governor of Massachusetts and the Mayor of Boston have both shown the deepest interest in the subject. On the initiative of the latter, a Boston Committee of prominent business men has been appointed to coöperate with the Committee on Organization in providing funds and completing preparations for the entertainment of the delegates from abroad. Many prominent persons, both from our own country and from Europe, have already expressed their intention to be present, and everything indicates that the meeting will be made a conspicuous and memorable success. Our own Society, which has had so prominent a part in the movement for more than three-quarters of a century, is greatly pleased that this Thirteenth International Peace Congress is to be held in Boston, which has always been the centre of the movement in America and has furnished so many of its most conspicuous leaders. Every member of the Society will, we are sure, do his utmost for the success of the Congress.

MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCES.

Our register shows a considerable increase in the membership of the Society during the year. The Treasurer's report shows that the Permanent Peace Fund has yielded

about six hundred and fifty dollars (\$650.00) less than last year. The receipts from other sources have been somewhat larger than heretofore, and we begin another year with a considerable balance in the treasury, carried over from bequests received last year.

Thanking God for his guidance and favors during the year, we respectfully submit this report.

On behalf of the Board,

BENJAMIN F. TRUEBLOOD.

BOSTON, May 18, 1904.

Secretary.

The Christian Herald's Peace Memorial to the World's Sunday School Convention in Jerusalem.

At the great World's Sunday School Convention held in Jerusalem the 18-20th of April, itself a powerful agency in promoting the brotherhood of man, the following Peace Memorial sent by the *Christian Herald* of New York was presented and evoked loud applause:

Fellow Christians: Two hundred and fifty thousand lovers of peace in the United States of America, representing every denomination in the Church of Christ throughout the Union, respectfully address you through the *Christian Herald*, with the urgent request that, in the course of your deliberations in convention, you may find an opportunity to give formal expression to the sentiment of your distinguished assembly on the subject of peace and arbitration.

At the opening of the Hague Conference five years ago the hopes of the Christian world were bright with expectation. Thirty [this should be twenty-six] nations were signatories to the Hague Convention. It was the purpose of those who planned that beneficent movement to create a Permanent International Tribunal, for the adjudication of all causes of dispute that might arise among the signatory powers, and for the extension of the principle of arbitration to all lands. That tribunal has been ignored; nations have gone to war, and thousands of human lives have been needlessly sacrificed in the intervening years. Even now two of the signatory powers are at war with each other, and still wider conflicts are impending. Armaments by land and sea have increased, until the burden of taxation for war purposes has become in many lands almost intolerable.

We respectfully and most earnestly urge your distinguished body to place itself on record by an appeal to the leading governments, through their several state departments, that they should again unite in the practical application of the principle laid down at the Hague Conference; and that all future causes of dispute should be carried to that tribunal, instead of being referred to the savage arbitrament of war. We ask you to let it be known everywhere that your distinguished body regards war as a brutal relic of barbarism, which settles no principle and decides no question save that of relative brute force.

The cry of a great majority of the fourteen hundred million souls who constitute the earth's population to-day is for peace and for the abolition of war: for peace to pursue their various vocations in quietness and safety; for peace to enjoy the liberty and prosperity which they desire for their families; for peace that they may dwell

in quietness in their own lands and enjoy the friendship and good will of their neighbors; for peace that they may live their lives in reasonable security, surrounded by the comfort and happiness which the Almighty has promised to all who trust him and look to him for protection.

And we respectfully submit that it is within your province and power, as an assembly representative of the Christian population of many lands, met for beneficent purposes, to exert an influence in this direction that may lead to most blessed results.

We trust that your distinguished body may be led by the Holy Spirit to act with wisdom and courage in all things, and that all your deliberations in convention may inure to the benefit of the whole world. And your memorialists will ever pray.

The War in the Far East.

The war between Russia and Japan is now entering its fifth month. The reports sent by cable daily have been so uncertain and contradictory that it has been very difficult to know the true state of things. The Japanese have directed their chief attention to Port Arthur, which they have invested by land and sea. The first conflict on land between the besiegers and the besieged was a very fierce one, and will go down in history as one of the bloodiest. The Russians were compelled, by the superior numbers of the Japanese and their terrific shell fire, to retire further down the peninsula toward Port Arthur. The losses on both sides were heavy, especially to the Japanese who attacked the Russian fortifications in front. The losses are thought to have been much greater than officially reported. There have been minor conflicts between the Cossacks and advanced bodies of Japanese troops, in which the advantage has not been all on the Japanese side. The Japanese fleet has suffered the loss of three important vessels, one of them a first-class battleship with nearly all on board. There are no present indications of any wish on either side for a speedy end of hostilities, and the general feeling is that the dreadful tragedy will go on indefinitely.

Auxiliaries of the American Peace Society.

THE CHICAGO PEACE SOCIETY,
175 Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill.
H. W. Thomas, D. D., President.
Mrs. E. A. W. Hoswell, Secretary.

THE MINNESOTA PEACE SOCIETY,
Minneapolis, Minn.
R. J. Mendenhall, President.
Miss A. B. Albertson, Secretary.

THE KANSAS STATE PEACE SOCIETY,
Wichita, Kansas.
George W. Hoss, LL. D., President.
J. M. Naylor, Secretary.

Form of Bequest.

I hereby give and bequeath to the American Peace Society, Boston, a corporation established under the laws of the State of Massachusetts, the sum of ——— dollars, to be employed by the Directors of said Society for the promotion of the cause of peace.